

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

- 1 1. An endotracheal tube comprising:
 - 2 a) a tubular member including a distal end and a proximal end; and
 - 3 b) a plurality of visually distinct regions at a proximal portion of the
 - 4 tubular member, wherein each of the distinct regions comprises a respectively different color.
- 1 2. The endotracheal tube of claim 1 further comprising:
 - 2 c) an adapter coupled to the proximal end.
- 1 3. The endotracheal tube of claim 1 wherein the plurality of visually
- 2 distinct regions comprises at least three visually distinct regions.
- 1 4. The endotracheal tube of claim 1 wherein each of the plurality of
- 2 visually distinct regions comprise at least one color selected from the group consisting of
- 3 blue, red, green, orange, yellow, and brown.
- 1 5. The endotracheal tube of claim 1 wherein the endotracheal tube is
- 2 adapted for use with an infant or a premature infant.
- 1 6. The endotracheal tube of claim 1 wherein the tubular member has a
- 2 length less than about 20 centimeters.
- 1 7. The endotracheal tube of claim 1 wherein the plurality of visually
- 2 distinct regions comprises a plurality of different colored lines, each line representing a
- 3 different endotracheal tube insertion depth for patients of different weight.
- 1 8. The endotracheal tube of claim 1 wherein the plurality of visually
- 2 distinct regions includes a first distinct region spaced about 6.5-7.0 cm from the distal end, a
- 3 second distinct region spaced about 7.5-8.0 cm from the distal end, and a third distinct region
- 4 spaced about 8.5-9.0 cm from the distal end.

1 9. The endotracheal tube of claim 1 wherein the plurality of visually
2 distinct regions includes a first distinct region spaced about 6.5-7.0 cm from the distal end, a
3 second distinct region spaced about 7.5-8.0 cm from the distal end, a third distinct region
4 spaced about 8.5-9.0 cm from the distal end, and a fourth distinct region spaced about
5 9.5-10.0 cm from the distal end.
6

1 10. The endotracheal tube of claim 1 wherein the plurality of visually
2 distinct regions includes a first distinct region spaced about 6.5 cm from the distal end, a
3 second distinct region spaced about 7.5 cm from the distal end, a third distinct region spaced
4 about 8.5 cm from the distal end, and a fourth distinct region spaced about 9.5 cm from the
5 distal end.

1 11. The endotracheal tube of claim 1 further comprising a safety marking
2 closer to the distal end than the proximal end, wherein the safety marking is adapted for
3 alignment adjacent to a patient's vocal cords.

1 12. A method of inserting an endotracheal tube in a patient, the method
2 comprising:

3 a) obtaining an endotracheal tube comprising a tubular member including
4 a distal end and a proximal end, and a plurality of visually distinct regions at a proximal
5 portion of the tubular member, wherein each of the distinct regions comprises a respectively
6 different color;

7 b) inserting the distal end of the endotracheal tube into a patient; and

8 c) aligning one visually distinct region of the visually distinct regions
9 with an anatomical structure of the patient.

1 13. The method of claim 12 further comprising:

2 d) securing the endotracheal tube to the patient after c).

1 14. The method of claim 12 further comprising

2 d) securing the endotracheal tube to the patient using tape after c).

1 15. The method of claim 12 further comprising:

2 d) selecting one visually distinct region prior to b).

- 1 16. The method of claim 12 further comprising:
2 d) determining a weight for the patient; and
3 e) using the determined weight for the patient to select the one visually
4 distinct region,
5 wherein d) and e) are performed before b).
- 1 17. The method of claim 12 wherein the patient is an infant.
- 1 18. The method of claim 12 wherein the patient is a premature infant.
- 1 19. The method of claim 12 wherein the plurality of visually distinct
2 regions comprises at least about three visually distinct regions.
- 1 20. The method of claim 12 wherein each of the plurality of visually
2 distinct regions comprise at least one color selected from the group consisting of blue, red,
3 green, orange, yellow, and brown.
- 1 21. The method of claim 12 wherein the plurality of visually distinct
2 regions includes a first distinct region spaced about 6.5-7.0 cm from the distal end, a second
3 distinct region spaced about 7.5-8.0 cm from the distal end, a third distinct region spaced
4 about 8.5-9.0 cm from the distal end, and a fourth distinct region spaced about 9.5-10.0 cm
5 from the distal end.
- 1 22. The method of claim 12 further comprising a safety marking closer to
2 the distal end than the proximal end, wherein the safety marking is adapted for alignment
3 with the patient's vocal cords.

1 23. A method of inserting an endotracheal tube in a patient, the method
2 comprising:
3 a) obtaining an endotracheal tube comprising a tubular member including
4 a distal end and a proximal end, and a plurality of visually distinct regions at a proximal
5 portion of the tubular member, wherein each visually distinct region is spaced from other
6 visually distinct regions;
7 b) inserting the distal end of the endotracheal tube into a patient;
8 c) aligning one visually distinct region of the visually distinct regions
9 with the upper gingival ridge of the patient; and
10 d) securing the endotracheal tube to the patient so that the one visually
11 distinct region is localized with respect to the upper gingival ridge.

1 24. The method of claim 23 wherein the plurality of visually distinct
2 regions comprises a plurality of lines with respectively different colors.